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Trial Opens for Russian Pair Accused of Spying With F.B.I. Agent

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LOS ANGELES, April 19 — The trial of a Russian émigré couple who are accused of spying for the Soviet Union opened today with an assertion by the Government that the Russian woman and an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were after money "for what the K.G.B. most wanted," access to an agent of the F.B.I.

The opening statement by the prosecutor indicated the key role the former agent, Richard W. Miller, will play at the trial of the couple, Svetlana and Nikolay Ogorodnikov. Mr. Miller, the first bureau agent to be charged with spying, will be tried later. All three are accused of conspiracy to commit espionage by passing secret national defense information to the Soviet Union. They were arrested last October.

Richard Kendall, the Assistant United States Attorney who presented the prosecution's opening statement, said that Mr. Miller had agreed to betray his country "in concert with" the Ogorodnikovs for the sake of "money, greed and sex."

Untrained 'Utility Agents'

The prosecutor told the jury that the Government would call Mr. Miller to testify at the Ogorodnikovs' trial and, if necessary, would seek a subpoena to compel his testimony.

Mr. Kendall described the Russian couple to the jury as working for the K.G.B., the Soviet Government's intelligence and internal security agency, as untrained "utility agents" who hoped to be able to repatriate to the Soviet Union in return for their efforts. The Ogorodnikovs listened to the proceedings with the help of interpreters.

Mrs. Ogorodnikov glared at Mr. Kendall as he described her as "an extremely manipulative woman" who used lies and tears to achieve her objective of recruiting a bureau agent as a spy.

'Let's Go to a Motel'

Mr. Kendall told the jury that before she met Mr. Miller, Mrs. Ogorodnikov had been assigned to another bureau agent, John Hunt, whose job in 1980 was to evaluate her as a potential informer. She would have been valued by the bureau because she had been observed in frequent contact with officials of the Soviet consulate in San Francisco,

which Mr. Kendall said functioned as a K.G.B. "establishment," along with the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Mr. Kendall said Mrs. Ogorodnikov had asserted that Mr. Hunt was "her boyfriend" and thereafter came under increasing pressure from the K.G.B. to produce information from him. The prosecutor described an incident in June 1982 in which he said Mrs. Ogorodnikov, after drinks with Mr. Hunt in a Hollywood restaurant, "suddenly flings down her briefcase, throws her arms around Hunt and said, 'I love you, let's go to a motel.'"

"This came totally out of the blue," Mr. Kendall said.

The prosecutor said Mr. Hunt had resisted this and all other sexual overtures with such moves as introducing Mrs. Ogorodnikov to his wife, his daughter and a grandchild, with the approval of his bureau supervisor. At one point, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt went shopping for gifts for Svetlana, Mr. Kendall said, also with official approval, in an attempt to secure her as "an asset." But Mr. Hunt eventually became convinced that she was unreliable and could not be counted on for loyalty to the United States, Mr. Kendall said, and he closed her file.

The prosecutor said the Government planned to introduce expert testimony by an author and former naval intelligence officer, John Barron, on the operations of the K.G.B.

Mrs. Ogorodnikov is represented by private lawyers assigned by the court, Gregory Stone and Brad D. Brian. Mr.

Ogorodnikov is represented by Randy Sue Pollock of the Federal public defenders office.

The prosecution maintained that by October 1983, the K.G.B. was stepping up its pressure on Mrs. Ogorodnikov, demanding she produce information from her purported F.B.I. boyfriend, Mr. Hunt.

She Told of a Moscow Trip

She later told F.B.I. agents other than Mr. Miller or Mr. Hunt that on a trip to Moscow that month she was intensely interrogated and assigned to find Stanislav Levchenko, who Mr. Kendall called "one of the highest ranking K.G.B. agents ever to defect to the United States." She later told Mr. Hunt that she had been beaten by the K.G.B. on the Moscow trip, Mr. Kendall said.

The role of an unindicted co-conspirator was emphasized by the prosecutor. An audiotape supplemented with videotaped subtitles was played of a conversation on Sept. 11, 1984 between Mrs. Ogorodnikov and Aleksandr Grishin, a Soviet consular official in San Francisco, who was indicted but because of his diplomatic immunity has not been prosecuted. Mr. Kendall said that Mr. Grishin has been identified by the Government as an officer of the K.G.B.'s "line K.R., the department responsible for penetrating the F.B.I."

The prosecutor said Mr. Grishin, using simple code words in the conversation, gave his approval for Mrs. Ogorodnikov to take Mr. Miller to meet ranking K.G.B. officials in Europe.